
Court Appointed Special Advocate Newsletter

Superior Court of Arizona ♥ Maricopa County Juvenile Division
3125 West Durango ♥ Phoenix, AZ 85009 ♥ 602-506-4083
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September 1998

A CHILD'S VOICE IN COURT

HOW TO BE A CASA "TO THE MAX"

by CASA Uri Schumm

Max, age 4, was abandoned in a motel along with his brother and sister by their drug-abusing mother. The children were adjudicated dependent and placed in separate foster homes. During that first year, Max lived with seven foster families and picked up the label ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder.) Max displayed aggressive behavior, attacking other children. He was also self-destructive, often beating his head into walls.

By the time he was placed at a residential treatment center (RTC) in the summer of 1997, Max had been labeled as an "unadaptable little monster." He went through a variety of medications, some of which helped tame his behavior. Finding the right combination and dosage was a long-term experiment. Max received essentially no visitors. Many of us would characterize him as "lost in the system."

Five months later, at the age of 5 ½, Max was assigned to Maricopa County CASA Angela Ashley on a courtesy supervision basis. During Angela's first contact with Max, she noted his unusual dexterity in the playground. With her charm and power of persuasion, Max's new CASA enrolled him in the YMCA's gymnastics class with all fees waived. She took him there twice weekly, and Max began to shine as a result of Angela's attention and the success he experienced at the YMCA.

As Max received consistent and nurturing attention from a caring adult, his behavior, schoolwork and therapy at the RTC all improved. The individual attention from Angela and her husband Ian were a tremendous benefit to Max's overall improvement. A formerly rejected, angry boy was steadily developing into a happy, kind child. Max's self-esteem was bolstered by his positive interactions with supportive adults as well as by the success he had in his athletic endeavors.

As Angela saw Max's progress, she felt he was ready for a

foster-adopt home. However, CPS refused to forward his file because of his early history and the long chain of labels Max had received. Angela refused to accept this. In May of 1998 she arranged a visit between Max's brother and his adoptive family, with Max and herself. The brother's CASA from another County was instrumental in facilitating this. The experience was a real success.

Thanks to Angela's initiative and persistence, Max is now placed in a foster-adopt home. He continues to be involved in gymnastics and sees his brother often. There is a real possibility that Max will join his brother's family via adoption.

Those of us who know Angela are not surprised. She exemplifies the commitment in action that all our CASA children deserve and need. Angela Ashley is a mentor and active member of the CASA Support Group. If you feel "stuck" with your case or need some inspiration, give Angela a call. She has demonstrated that it is okay to question and that we don't necessarily have to accept the labels placed upon our CASA children. If you are willing to put in the time and effort, you too can make a major difference in the life of your CASA child!

CASA GET-TOGETHER!

Come join other volunteers and staff for a few hours of fun and good conversation at Sam's Cafe at the Arizona Center, 455 N. Third Street on September 10, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

No training hours required! Let us know you'll be there by calling the CASA Office 506-4083 no later than 9-4-98.

CASA Program Staff

Katrina Montañó	506-4047
Nancy Molever	506-5221
Angela Cause	506-3379
Laura Devany	506-4425
Shannon Childs	506-4415
Leslie Blakley	506-4083



CASA Volunteer Mentors

Angela Ashley
Anne Donahoe
Margo Fitts
Jackie Flowers
Dana Gilroy
Lynda Pederson
Toni Schulte
Uri Schumm
Karen Tyrrell

*If you have been a CASA for 2 years or more and would like to learn how you can become a mentor, please contact your CASA Coordinator.

YOUR CASA SUPPORT GROUP

Fewer than 9% of the children in Maricopa County who need a CASA have one. Although our County's Attrition rate is less than the average 29% of most volunteer groups, we still lose a quarter of our CASA's annually. In an effort to increase the percentage of children served, and to help us all become more effective advocates for our CASA children, several of us recently formed the CASA Support Group (CSG.) CSG believes that the job of retaining skilled and committed individuals begins with focused recruitment, clearly defined guidelines and skilled candidate screening. It continues with appropriate and relevant training, and ends with continuing empathetic support and guidance from coordinators who are unencumbered by excessive administrative demands.

Serving abused and neglected children can be a tough job. Sometimes our efforts to speak up for children appear to conflict with the agendas of others. The mission of your CASA Support Group is to assure that the needs of CASA children are clearly heard and understood. We are here to support all CASAs in speaking up effectively for our children.

CSG has already responded to existing volunteer concerns regarding obstacles to advocacy by meeting with Bill Callahan of the Court Administrator's office and our CASA Coordinators. We have also met with Linda Castaneda and Peggy Baker of the Arizona CASA Program regarding many of these issues. The results have been an on-going working relationship between the CSG and both these entities. We are heartened by the commitment to improving our program expressed by everyone. We will continue to work with the State and County Offices to translate everyone's good intentions into action for the benefit of Arizona's abused and neglected children.

We want our efforts on behalf of these children to be truly meaningful and potent. To this end, we in the CASA Support Group stand ready to assist you with your questions and listen to your gripes. Please save our names and phone numbers accompanying the brief bios at the end of this article, so you can reach us whenever you wish.

Some of you have already told us that you felt the initial interview and orientation training did not adequately prepare you for the complexity of the cases you received. In addition, the time required and the demands made on you were often greater than you expected. CSG is presently working with the CASA staff in an attempt to ensure that all volunteers will be better prepared to represent the needs of their children.

Members of the CSG have begun participating in initial interviews with the coordinators to make the perspective

of a volunteer a part of the process. Also, members of the CSG have participated as speakers in orientation training in the past. We plan to be even more active in the future and are actively working to make training more relevant. We are committed to voicing our views and having volunteer perspectives considered in proposed policy changes.

In our roles as CASAs we are often confronted with difficult situations which require additional information and knowledge specific to our cases. It's easy to say that our role is to look out for the best interest of our children, but what do we do when our perception differs from that of others? What can or should be done when our ideas or proposed actions conflict with CPS, a foster parent, or a child's parent? Our coordinators usually are available to help us sort out these issues. When they are not, or when a CASA prefers to bounce ideas off a fellow volunteer, CSG members, all experienced CASAs, will be available in addition to your assigned mentors. The goal is to have someone available for you at all times. We have all heard complaints about paperwork demands and share your sentiments. As volunteers, naturally our primary interest is in utilizing our limited time to provide the advocacy dependent children need. However, we recognize that documentation of all contacts in the case is necessary to ensure good practice, accountability to the Court, and for administrative and funding purposes. CSG welcomes suggestions regarding ways to minimize paperwork without negatively impacting program demands.

We know you want to be a zealous advocate for your CASA child or children. Tell us how we can help you. Let's work together to help our CASA Program to make a difference in the lives of all Arizona's abused and neglected children. Call us. Let us share our experiences with you. Teach us what you have learned. Together we can be a powerful force to help the growing number of these kids!

Your CASA Support Group

Angela Ashley - 6 years as a CASA and 11 years on FCRB. Angela is a great source for those with young children who have physical or emotional handicaps. She is a children's grief group facilitator. 922-5760

Oonagh Boppart - 11 years as CASA. Oonagh has long experience with special-needs children. She is a prime example of a CASA who makes and keeps a long-term commitment to her children. She recently attended the college graduation of one of her 21 CASA kids. Oonagh is a tremendous resource to all of us. 952-0942

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CASA SPONSORED TRAINING

September 3, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Court Report Writing - All CASAs need to sign up for one of the five Court Report Writing workshops. Presenters: Maricopa CASA Program Staff. Location: Maricopa County Juvenile Court, 3125 W. Durango, Room 223. Please RSVP to the CASA office 506-4083 by 9-1-98.

September 10, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., CASA Get-Together - Come join other volunteers and staff for a few hours of fun and good conversation at Sam's Cafe at the Arizona Center, 455 N. Third Street. No training hours required! Let us know you'll be there by calling 506-4083 no later than 9-4-98.

September 15, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Surrogate Parent Training - Surrogate Parents have the same legal rights to represent a special education child as a natural parent. If you are interested in learning more about special education and becoming certified as a Surrogate Parent this training is for you. Presenter: Ellen Bingham. Location: AOC, 1501 W. Washington, Room 119. Please RSVP by 9-10.

October 3, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Arizona Early Intervention Program (AZEIP) - A brief overview of the Arizona Early Intervention Program and the children they serve. The training will describe some key learning for children at certain ages, what you might expect to see a child doing, and how you may guide a child's growth and learning. Location: Juvenile Court - Durango, 3125 W. Durango, Room 223. Please RSVP to the CASA Office by 9-25-98.

CONFERENCES

September 10 & 11, Building a New Generation - Topics include Prevention, Pregnancy-Related Issues, Parenting and Beyond, Professional Growth & Development, and Adolescent Sexuality. For more information contact ACAPP (602) 265-4337.

September 23, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Neo-Naticide: Troubled Teens, Terrible Consequences - Free seminar, Free brown bag lunch. Presented by Dr. Herschel Rosenzweig, Psychiatrist, Sonora Behavioral Health. Location Casa de los Ninos, 1101 N. 4th Ave., Tucson. For more information contact (520) 624-5600

September 24 and 25, Kids in Court....and Beyond - The 6th Annual Statewide Conference of the Arizona Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. A two-day, multi-disciplinary conference for medical, legal, psychology, psychiatry, law enforcement, social work and other professionals who work with abused children, focusing on cutting edge challenges and state-of-the-art solutions. Location: Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, 1900 E. Speedway, Tucson. For more information contact Arizona's Child Abuse InfoCenter (520) 626-1997.

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Upcoming Integrating the Professionals in Child Maltreatment Cases, date and time to be announced - Washington State CASA presents a participatory satellite training, focusing on a child maltreatment case that illustrates the neurological impact of maltreatment, the long term effects of maltreatment--including post traumatic stress disorder, different treatments for these children, and the role of CASA and the legal system in the intervention of these cases.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LET'S GO TO THE THEATER!

Phoenix Theater's Children's Theater, The Cookie Company, is making available to our CASA children ten seats for each performance of this year's season. Two weeks advance notice is required and availability is on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested in any of the following performances, please contact Nancy Molever at 506-522: **Puss N' Boots**, October 13, 1998, Tues. 7 pm Preview; **X'mas In OZ**, December 1, 1998, Tues. 7 pm Preview; **Magical Magpie**, February 2, 1999, Tues. 7 pm Preview; **Heidi**, March 23, 1999, Tues. 7 pm Preview

HELP WANTED: Volunteer willing to work with Mary Gindhart, the Arizona state CASA Program Outreach Specialist, actively pursuing T.V. and print media leads for the Maricopa County CASA Program. Training and materials available. If interested, please call CASA Coordinator Nancy Molever 506-5221.

Of the ten worst fears in the U.S., speaking before a group is number one. Won't you be the brave volunteer to step forward and join the Speakers Bureau? Call CASA Coordinator Nancy Molever 506-5221 if you can participate in at least one community presentation.

Looking for volunteers willing to help promote the CASA program in your neighborhood. CASAs will be tasked with identifying 10-15 locations within your neighborhood that would lead to strong candidates for the CASA Program. This assignment will also require reaching out to local organizations for presentations about the CASA Program. West Valley efforts are particularly needed. Posters and other materials are available to enhance your efforts. If interested, contact CASA Coordinator Nancy Molever 506-5221.

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!!!

Jennifer Boucek
Jane Huff
Evelyn Hughes
Michele Hughes
Roxanne Klein
Deborah Lana

Elizabeth Osborn
Wendy Ryan
Elizabeth Stillman
Melissa Vaughn
Kimberlee Wedel-Bullock
Tina Wilcox

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Court Report Writing 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Juvenile Court Durango, Room 223 <i>RSVP BY 9-1</i>	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10 CASA Get-Together at Sam's Cafe (AZ Ctr), 4 -6 p.m, 455 N. Third Street <i>RSVP BY 9-4</i>	11	12
13	14	15 Surrogate Parent Training 5 - 8 p.m., AOC 1501 W. Washington, Rm 119 <i>RSVP BY 9-11</i>	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**It is very important that when a training is scheduled that you call to RSVP. If the training is canceled this will insure that you are notified and this will also help us to insure that we have enough food (if it is provided). By RSVPing this will also insure that you are given credit towards your yearly training. Please help us to help you.

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Continued from Page 2 "Your CASA Support Group"

Jackie Flowers - One of the original Maricopa County CASAs. Jackie has been vocal on children's issues for years. Jackie's greatest strength is a belief that we can make a difference in the lives of children. Looking for an understanding and helpful person? Call Jackie. 265-3565.

Lynda Pederson - 4 years as a CASA. She has worked with children needing mental health and counseling services. Lynda still has her original case as well as a couple of additional children. She is experienced and ready to assist you. 996-9394

Uri Schumm - 3 ½ years as a CASA. A former juvenile probation officer, Uri believes that helping a child to build a healthy, long-term relationship with a nurturing role model is a major part of a CASA's task. Uri wants to strengthen the CASA Program by helping volunteers solve problems and be strong, effective advocates. 493-1818

DAY UNITS AT CPS

The Dually Adjudicated Youth (DAY) Units are designed to serve the families and children of Maricopa County by providing specialized response to children in crisis who are interagency involved with the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Protective Services, and the Maricopa County Juvenile Division.

The DAY units are targeted to service children who are temporary wards of the court, pending a dependency determination and who are also in any stage of delinquency proceedings with the Juvenile court. At present, there are three DAY units (2 Intake and 1 Ongoing) within Maricopa County servicing youth between the ages of 13 and 18. Referrals are received by means of the CPS Hotline and from CPS field units. Referrals are sent to the DAY supervisor and acceptance is contingent upon available openings.

DAY intake and ongoing units have the same duties and responsibilities as other CPS intake and ongoing units. However, treatment/case plans and services are specialized to address issues related to both the dependency and delinquency. The DAY CPS caseworker attends all dependency and delinquency Court hearings and works closely with the juvenile probation officer. When the case is no longer dually adjudicated, it is transferred to a regular CPS ongoing unit. Cases can also be transferred to the CPS Young Adult Program, if appropriate.

If you are working with dually-adjudicated youth, consider speaking with the assigned CPS worker regarding a possible referral to a DAY Unit.

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RESOURCES

Applications are available for two training and academic programs: Youthbuild, which offers construction training, and YouthSkilled, which trains youths in machining.

The programs, sponsored by the Phoenix Human Services Department, are for men and women, ages 17-21, who have dropped out of high school. The programs offer stipends and job placement.

Additionally, participants learn how to pass the GED exam, work as a team, provide housing for low-income people and become leaders.

About 55 will be accepted to participate in a six-week orientation starting in September. Those completing the orientation will receive \$500. Thirty-two students will be selected to continue the 12-month program.

Recruitment opens only once a year. For more information or to apply for the programs, call 534-3687. A completed application and personal interview are required.



POOL SAFETY NOTICE

CASA's please make notice of and adhere to DES policy regarding swimming pool safety. DES has very strict, specified guidelines regarding pool safety for children ages six and under who are under the care, custody and control of the department. Children ages six and under cannot, under any circumstances, be in areas where pools are unfenced. City ordinances regarding pool safety may vary from city to city. Tempe guidelines may not be the same as Peoria or Glendale. However, regardless of location, no child who is under the supervision of ADES is allowed in unfenced pool areas.

For CASAs this means that, if your CASA child is six years or younger and your home pool is unfenced, that child is not allowed to be at your home. If you wish to take the child to an event at someone else's home where a pool is unfenced, the child cannot attend.

Hopefully this will alleviate any confusion which may have existed around swimming pools. It has been suggested that this information be included in the CASA Orientation training so that all CASAs will have this awareness. Should you have any questions, please contact your CASA Coordinator.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Maggie Leach	5	Anne Donahoe	12
Karen Sicard	12	Clifford Ford	14
Richard Brandes	15	Bonnie Weppner-Kahn	17
Valerie Sheedy	17	Diana Rosenblatt	18

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COMMENDATIONS

The Court thanks its CASA representative, **Rochelle Kelman**, for her devotion and assistance with the children. Keep up the good work Rochelle!

Foster Care Review Board and CPS commended **CASA Myndi Eakin** on her outstanding work on her case. Way to go Myndi!

Judge Anderson commended **CASA Mary Schmidt** and the case manager for their excellent reports. Great job Mary!

At CPS Core, a case manager, Melissa Smith raved about what a good **CASA Roy Reynolds** is and asked that he be recognized for all of his hard work and for being so pleasurable to work with. Great job Roy. You are appreciated!

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CASA volunteer Maggie Clancy was commended by Probation Officer James Jones for the interest she has taken in her new case. Maggie attended an advisory hearing for her CASA child even before she had the chance to meet her. James filled Maggie in on what to expect and wanted everyone to what a great job she and all the CASA volunteers do! Great job Maggie!

The Foster Care Review Board commended **CASA Karen Tyrrell** highly for her good work. Way to go Karen!

CASA FALL PICNIC

Make plans now to attend the Annual CASA Fall Picnic at Margaret T. Hance Park, 67 W. Culver, on Sunday, October 25 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. Bring your CASA children for an afternoon of fun and laughs as we play volleyball, run the three-legged-race, and eat hot dogs under cool October skies.



CASA PROGRAM
Juvenile Court Center
3125 W. Durango, Suite 243
Phoenix, AZ 85009